

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Office for indicating that Claims 52 - 56 and 58 - 64 are allowable. Claims 52-56, 58-64, and 66 are pending. Claims 67-71 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer solely in order to facilitate prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims in a continuing application. Claim 66 has been amended without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the foregoing amendment can be found throughout the Specification and claims as originally filed, for example, see Specification, for example, at page 7, lines 17-31 and 9, lines 3-13. No new matter enters by way of the foregoing amendment.

I. Objections to Specification

Applicants have amended the Specification to clarify the relationship of WO 98/46776 in accordance with the Office's suggestions. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 66-71 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Knauf *et al.* (U.S. patent 5,510,225) in view of Kaneko *et al.* (DNA Research, Vol. 3, pp. 109-136, June 19, 1996), and further in view of Applicants' Specification. Office Action at page 3.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office's 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections. However, solely in order to facilitate prosecution, Applicants have amended Claim 66 without prejudice or disclaimer in a manner consistent with the Office's suggestion. Moreover, Claims 67-71 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer solely in order to facilitate prosecution. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that the claim objections are rendered moot.

In light of these remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection of Claim 66 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for purportedly being unpatentable over Knauf *et al.* in view of Kaneko *et al.*

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding objection and rejections of the claims, and to pass this application to issue. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (202) 942-5186 should any additional information be necessary for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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